

Volunteer!

Whether you or your group has just a few hours or can offer a longer term commitment, we have many opportunities to help.

From mentoring a child to stocking the Food Pantry to serving on an event team — your time makes a big impact!

Visit ucmagency.org for an adult or youth application to complete and email to volunteer@ucmagency.org.

Join us at the Heart of Community!



CFC #37839



United Way #8199

Your generosity helps community members in need build brighter futures. *Thank you!*

**Thank You to our 2014
Event Sponsors!**

Please join us in gratefully acknowledging our Friends of UCM 2014 event sponsors:

PRESENTING SPONSOR : Doug & Eileen Kennett

ANNIVERSARY PARTNER: Greg & Lois Bender, Don Beyer Volvo, Subaru, Kia of Alexandria, Fairfax County Professional Firefighters & Paramedics I.A.F.F. Local 2068, Good Shepherd Catholic Church, C. Davis Haines, Nancy Lee Hindman, Gigi Hyland & Chris Revere, Information Technology & Solutions Consulting, LLC, Elaine Kolish & David FitzGerald, Tom & Kathy Lehner

FOUNDER: Ms. Abigail Arms, Collis-Warner Foundation, Inc., Supervisor Gerry Hyland, Mount Vernon District, Shirley Marshall & John Hardies, Drs. James & Melissa Thiel

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National Letter Carriers Assn.
Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive
Saturday, May 10, 2014!

Fill the plastic bag from your letter carrier & leave it by your mailbox. The Letter Carriers will get the food to UCM's Food Pantry for our families.

Have you seen our new video?

STABILIZE. EMPOWER. ENGAGE.



Watch UCM's new video
"THE HEART OF COMMUNITY"
www.ucmagency.org

DONATE. VOLUNTEER. ADVOCATE.

Join UCM at the Heart of Community!

**Celebrating UCM's 45th Anniversary:
Friends of UCM Hosts Record-Breaking Events**

Once again, the Friends of UCM outdid themselves with a phenomenal Capitol Steps Benefit performance and the annual Friends of UCM Spring Gala, this year celebrating UCM's 45th Anniversary.



"Since 1969, UCM has grown from a small collection of services providing food, clothing, and shelter to people in need — to a robust organization with diverse services that stabilize, empower, and engage," says UCM Executive Director Shirley Marshall. "We are so grateful for The Friends of UCM's enthusiasm, energy, and creativity. They exemplify the caring and can-do spirit in our great community. We especially thank Friends of UCM President Diane Tollefson and the events co-chairs."

Capitol Steps 2014. Community members came together Sunday Jan. 26 to support UCM at the Knights of Columbus Hall for this annual event. Attendees enjoyed the group's timely skits and music, had the opportunity to win fabulous raffle baskets, and raised \$66,500+ to help ensure low-income families can turn to UCM in their time of need.



45th Anniversary Spring Gala. Saturday Mar. 29 was a special evening we won't soon forget, celebrating this special milestone. Close to 300 community members enjoyed a delightful and elegant benefit event, made possible by the support of our sponsors and auction donors.

Held for the first time at the Madison Building (US PTO) in Old Town, the Spring Gala raised a record-breaking \$180,000+ toward a brighter future for thousands of families struggling to achieve success. The evening featured a VIP reception, cocktails, silent and live auctions, a delicious gourmet dinner, raffle drawing for a special Casa de Campo resort trip, and dancing with the 12-piece Tower House band.



We are especially grateful to our 2014 special event sponsors listed on page 4. Our event photo album is available via www.ucmagency.org. Would like to learn more about the Friends of UCM and how you can participate? Email friends@ucmagency.org.

**EMPOWER.
UCM's Work Center:
Now at Mount Zephyr Business Center**

Looking for work can be a full time job. Looking for work when you are unskilled or on the edge financially is frightening. At UCM, we offer help and hope to adults seeking employment.

Our Work Center employment coaches work hard to reduce barriers to employment and increase our clients' confidence and self esteem. And now our services are conveniently located at the Mount Zephyr Business Center, 8305 Richmond Hwy., Suite 4A, at the corner of Richmond Hwy. and Reddick Ave.

We offer resume review, job preparation services and one-on-one job counseling. Job seekers can also find educational opportunities ranging from keyboarding classes to basic and intermediate classes in MS Office products to English classes stressing basic communication or vocabulary building.

With our effective job search strategies and techniques, we place dozens of people in new jobs — or better paying



Thanks to the UCM Work Center, Sam landed a job in his desired field at Tech 24. See Sam in our new video via ucmagency.org.

jobs — every year. Thanks to supporters like you, UCM job coaches are able to help people like Sam* to secure jobs after they graduate from our Adult Job Readiness program.

(continues page 2 "UCM Work Center")

* Name changed for his privacy

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UCM Work Center

UCM staff armed Sam with a new resume, assistance in applying online, one-on-one job interview coaching, technical materials related to the trade, partial reimbursement for his transportation, appropriate interview clothing, and a haircut for his job interview.

He received a job offer three days after the interview! Meet Sam in our new UCM video, featured at ucmagency.org.

“

I went back to school to study HVAC but couldn't find a job. Thanks to the UCM coaches, I got the interview skills to get my dream job!”

Sam, UCM Work Center graduate

Looking to hire a qualified applicant at your organization? Interested to **volunteer** at our Work Center? For information about Work Center opportunities, contact Jessica Cordova at jessica.cordova@ucmagency.org.

Back Porch Thrift Store is on the Move!



UCM's Back Porch Thrift Store is set to move in June 2014 to a more spacious location! It's a larger, improved store with a more convenient donation drop off site and ample parking at: **Sacramento Shopping Center** on Richmond Hwy., 8794-A Sacramento Drive. Our store hours and donation hours remain the same.

For more information, visit our store website at backporchthrift.org.



Whether you are shopping or donating, you are

DONATE. Be a Champion for UCM with Automatic Monthly Giving

Looking for an easy and efficient way to support UCM? Monthly giving via our secure online donation site is about as easy as it gets — and has a big impact.



Your monthly gift matters: \$20 per month can mean rental assistance so a family can avoid eviction. \$45 per month pays for groceries for a small family for one week every month.

Just set up the automatic payment from your bank account or credit card at our donation site at ucmagency.org. You can even designate your monthly donation to a specific UCM program.

Make An Impact on the Future

Make a bequest to UCM — and you make a difference and change lives for generations to come!

When you include UCM in your estate plans, you make a tremendous impact on your community for the future.

STABILIZE. Help Kids Succeed for School Year 2015!

Spring break was just here... but amazingly, plans are already in the works for UCM's *Back to School* campaign!

Our program would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of scores of caring volunteers to organize the supplies, fill the backpacks, and assist when the families arrive to make selections.

Last Fall, community members donated new backpacks and money for UCM to purchase discounted school supplies, so more than 1,000 local children started school ready to succeed.

Our lead volunteer team never ceases to amaze us with their planning and logistics skills to organize our program every year. If your family or group would like to donate or organize a Back to School drive this summer — or **volunteer** to help out — email Ali Delgado at alexandra.delgado@ucmagency.org!



ENGAGE. Celebrating Community Leadership

Opportunity Neighborhood, working in part of zip 22309, is an initiative of Fairfax County, the public schools, and business, faith and nonprofit leaders to help families reach their full potential. UCM's role is resident engagement. "As noted in many studies, more engaged residents mean a more stable and successful community for all," says UCM's Blanca Vasquez.



Sequoyah Friends was formed to educate residents on available services, resources, and programs to build self-sufficiency and community involvement. More than 20 residents have graduated from a leadership course on "Vitalizing Communities," developed in partnership with the Alexandria South Rotary Club.

Pictured above is the first graduating class, along with Rotarians who led the training. Thank you to the Rotary and to all our volunteers for the critical role you play to help our neighbors grow and thrive! We are looking forward to more good news at Sequoyah!

Join Us at the Heart of Community!

Dear Friends,

Collaboration, team work, partnership, — whatever you want to call it, here at UCM we celebrate it! When individuals, businesses, faith communities, and public agencies come together, effective change happens.

Thanks to generous volunteers and supporters, UCM can provide help and hope to thousands of families each year so they can grow and thrive. Thank you!

Since our founding in 1969, your support has been at the heart of community. What does your support today mean for a struggling family? It means a child starts Kindergarten ready to learn, a parent learns enough English to obtain a better job, a tween learns to use technology and enjoy learning. It means a group of low-income neighbors come together to plan how they can improve their diverse neighborhood.

How can you continue to be part of this success? Donate. Volunteer. Advocate. Please join us at the heart of community. Together, we change lives — and lift up all our hearts.

Shirley
Shirley M. Marshall,
UCM Executive Director



It takes all of us to engage our community. Volunteer at UCM!

EMPOWER. UCM's Progreso Center for Literacy & Citizenship: A Wonderful Place to Grow and Thrive

For people to achieve and maintain stability, continued learning and career development are essential. Our clients work hard to move beyond limited skills and literacy, to achieve self-sufficiency — and a brighter future.

Early this year, the programs of Progreso Center for Literacy & Citizenship were integrated with UCM. Cristina Schoendorf, former Progreso executive director, is now UCM's Director of Literacy and Work. ESL courses and classes that provide a path to U.S. citizenship continue at Progreso's 4100 Mohawk Lane office. Conversation and tutoring sessions take place at various locations including Sherwood Hall Library.

“If we can speak English well, we can help our daughter with her family. We can help our grandson with his homework.”
Maria and Alberto, UCM Progreso Center clients

Maria and her husband Alberto moved from Venezuela several years ago to be closer to their adult daughter and their grandchildren. They are working toward their U.S. citizenship. "The volunteer teachers here are friendly and very helpful," says Alberto.

Interested to learn more or to **volunteer**? Call the Center at 703.799.8830 or email Carmen Carcamo at carmen.carcamo@ucmagency.org.

Thanks to our dedicated trained volunteers, every year 200+ non-English speakers receive comprehensive, affordable and accessible ESL and citizenship instruction. Our services inspire life-long changes by helping immigrants gain access to skills and programs that reduce poverty and promote self-sufficiency.



* Names changed to protect client privacy.